

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of July 7, 2008 is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 25, 26, 33 and 41 have been amended, and claim 38 has been cancelled. Thus, claims 25-37 and 39-44 are currently pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

On page 19 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 38 contains allowable subject matter and would be in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, in order to place the claims into condition for allowance, it is noted that the limitations of claim 38 have been incorporated into base claim 25, as well as into independent claim 41. Therefore, in view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claim 38, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 25 and 41 are in condition for allowance.

On pages 3-14 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 25-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fareid et al. (WO 91/08982) in view of Foy et al. (WO 03/000400) and Bosquain et al. (US 5,882,385). Further, on pages 14-19 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 36-37, 39 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fareid in view of Foy and Bosquain, and further in view of Ward et al. (WO 98/28073). However, as indicated above, independent claims 25 and 41 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 38. In view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claim 38, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 25 and 41 are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 25 and 41, as well as claims 26-37, 39, 40 and 42-44 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

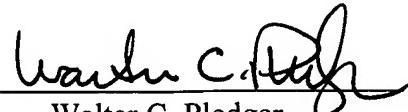
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining

which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Halvor OIEN ET AL.

By: 
Walter C. Pledger
Registration No. 55,540
Attorney for Applicants

WCP/lkd
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
October 7, 2008